1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

had their dwellings far from any fishing water, I myself never saw these Indians engaging in fishing. As they had, however, brought with them their fishing gear (except the frameworks of their landing-nets), I succeeded in making a good collection of this kind of implement. 226

The Choroti fish with nets (using them as landing-nets), fish-hooks, and with bow and arrow. The last-mentioned fishing method, which, as far as I know, has only been observed by Moberg a Swede, is, however, only used during the latter part of the rainy season.[1]

The nets are either fastened so as to fill up the angle between two rigid poles, which are tied together by their lower ends (fig. 113), or between two supple rods, tied together at both ends (fig 114). The angle-set poles, and the rods, seem as a rule to be about 3 m in length. These fork poles and rods (dip-net frames) the Choroti had not troubled to bring with them to their dwelling site — far removed from any fishing water — in the neighbourhood of Tatarenda, and therefore my description of these implements is founded on two specimens preserved in the Gothenburg Museum, and on such photographs[2] and information as Nordenskiöld has kindly given me.[3]

When fishing, the Indians often split up into two parties, one of whom make a bar across the river with the nets that are stretched between poles (the barring-nets), which are then held so that the points of the fork rest on the bottom of the river. The other party of fishermen drives the fish towards the barring-nets, at the same time using their nets that are fixed between two rods (dip-nets) for catching fish.[4] These latter nets are used like large landing-nets, and, by means of the flexible rods, can be opened and closed. The Choroti have no water craft of any kind (not even rafts), but do their fishing swimming or wading. When fish is scarce, the Choroti block up the Pilcomayo with pole-built fences that, here and there, have openings in them. In front of these, the Indians sit on small platforms (figs. 114 and 115), and fish with dip-nets. When the weather is cold, or when fish is to be fried, fire is made on the platforms, which are isolated from the fire by means of a layer of river mud.[5] These 501 481 343 226

[1] Nordenskiöld (11), pp. 60.
[2] Nordenskiöld (13), fig. 8, 11 8, plate 14', and Karsten (2), the figure on p. 34.
[3] Letter dated 14. 7. 1921, Ruckelstad collection of manuscripts, volume 1921, letter N.
[4] Nordenskiöld (13), p. 43.
[5] Nordenskiöld (13), p. 44.

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Fig. 113. Ashlushlay fishermen with barring nets. Pilcomayo. Gran Chaco, Bolivia. Sketched from a photograph by Erl. Nordenskiöld.

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little water platforms are constructed in about the same way as the food-storing platforms, or cooking sheds, that the Choroti build on dry ground (see p. 38). The only difference is that the two horizontally placed sticks that support the platform (the roof) in the latter, are resting in natural forks formed by the top ends of the uprights (see fig. 28), whilst the two sticks that support the platforms (the floor) of the river structures rest against bindings which have been tied round two uprights driven in close together. This arrangement almost certainly aims at the possibility of raising or lowering the platform in accordance with the level of the river water. In all other respects there is very great resemblance between the platforms that are built in rivers (fig. 115) and the cooking sheds built on dry land (fig. 28). In chapter VII I have tried to show how pile structures on firm ground have inspired the idea of building similar structures in water (see pp. 192—199 and 38—47).

The Choroti are so much at home in the water that they are able, whilst swimming below the surface, to catch fish with their dip-nets.

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136 481 292 I have mentioned that the Choroti do not possess any water-craft, so that when fishing with nets they often have to wade or swim. In doing this, they expose themselves to being attacked by palometa fishes. As a protection for their legs in wading, the Indians occasionally wear a kind of mail stockings of caraguatá (see p. 54), but when they are swimming, they often get badly mauled by these fierce fishes, and I saw several Choroti with enormous scars from the bites of palometas (fig. 53). It also happens, now and again, that Indians, whem swimming, get killed by caymans, which, here and there, are plentiful.

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Fig. 118. Mesh-spacer of palo santo (Bulnesia sarmienti). Length 14.0 cm, width 3.0 cm; thickness along longitudinal axis 0.9 cm. The thickness decreases towards the longer edges, which are rounded. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Riksm. 03. 3. 242.

222 In the collection of the fruits, roots and pith of wild plants the Choroti possess an important source of subsistence. The Chaco Indians obtain edible fruits from, inter alia, the algaroba (Prosopis alba), the chañar (Gourlica decortitans), the mistol (Zizyphus mistol) and the tusca (Acacia aroma). The rootstocks of the caraguatá, or chahuar (Bromelia serra), plant are used for food by these Indians, and the same applies to the pith of the fan palm (Copernicia australis). For pulling down within reach the fruit-bearing branches of trees, the Indians make use of wooden hooks with a short arm and a long one, the latter then serving as a handle, whilst the tree branch which is to be bent down, is hooked with the shorter arm of the implement.[1] In digging up the spiny caraguatá plants the Choroti use a forked stick.[2]

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Fig. 119. Fishing hook of iron, with line of caraguatá fibre. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. 1/1. Riksm. 03. 3. 238.

Fig. 120. Fish club of palo santo (Handle upwards). Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. 1/6. Riksm. 03. 3. 87.

At the time of my stay among the Choroti, the part of the tribe with whom I was in touch carried on no other agriculture than the growing of pumpkins in a primi-

[1] Nordenskiöld (11), fig. 3.
[2] Nordenskiöld (13), fig. 49.

2: Nordenskiöld E-5 (1908-1909)1919
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Ashluslay SK5

X.

Domestic Animals and Objects connected with them.

A C 231 The Choroti and the Ashluslay keep dogs, horses, cows, sheep, goats, fowls and cats. Of these the *dog* is the only native domestic animal. The dog is very widely distributed in America. In many cases it is difficult to decide to what extent he has spread beyond his original domain in post-Columbian times. I do not know whether the Chaco dog has been crossed with dogs of European breeds, but in any case he has a very characteristic appearance, and is worth studying by a specialist.

We know that the Indians of the Argentine pampas and of the Chaco Austral became real equestrians soon after the Discovery of America. Their whole life was changed and adopted to the horse.

A C [481 492] The Ashluslay and some of the Choroti also have horses, and *breed horses*. But they are not equestrians, and usually go on foot. Owing to the introduction of horses, they have adopted this and the other accessory to a horseman's equipment, among other things, curious *spurs* of forked wood. (Fig. 11).

The Ashluslay Indians have numerous cows and sheep, and a smaller number of goats. Among the Choroti we find sheep and goats, and few cows. When the cows are killed, their flesh is used; but this may be said to happen rarely.